

The following is an **Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance**:

Claims 31-56 and 59 are directed to a method of obtaining protein chains of the extracellular hemoglobin of *Arenicola marina* of specific amino acid sequence utilizing a dissociation buffer, methods of preparing primer pairs capable of hybridizing to DNA encoding said chains, methods of preparing cDNA encoding said chains of specific amino acid sequence in their entirety and their expression products.

Claimed amino acid sequences and their encoding DNA are free of prior art. Further, the prior fails to suggest such specifically claimed sequences. Hence, said sequences are also non-obvious. Since said amino acid and cDNA sequences are both novel and non-obvious, methods of making or using them as specifically claimed are also novel and non-obvious.

Claims 31-56 and 59 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maryam Monshipouri whose telephone number is (571) 272-0932. The examiner can normally be reached on Tues.-Fri., from 7:00 a.m to 5:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Manjunath Rao can be reached on (571) 272-0939. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Serial Number:10/575,628

Art Unit 1656

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Maryam Monshipouri/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1656

Application/Control Number: 10/575,628
Art Unit: 1656

Page 2